

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00012 032055Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 031930Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3565

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 00012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CASE OF FRANCISCO ADUM ADUM: STATUS REPORT

REF: GUAYAQUIL 947

1. FRANCISCO ADUM ADUM REMAINS IN JAIL IN GUAYAQUIL ON NARCOTICS CHARGES. HOWEVER, CASE AGAINST HIM IS STILL WEAK AND SEEMS TO CONSIST ENTIRELY OF HEARSAY EVIDENCE. IT POSSIBLE THAT ADUM WILL BE RELEASED WITHOUT COMING TO TRIAL. ADUM BEING HELD THIS LONG MAY WELL BE RESULT OF BARRAGE OF PUBLICITY THAT HIT ECUADOREAN PRESS SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARREST.

2. IF TRIAL IS HELD, POSSIBILITY OF CONVICTION SEEMS SLIGHT. NOT ONLY IS THERE SCANT EVIDENCE AGAINST ADUM BUT ALSO NEW JUDGE OF DOUBTFULL CREDENTIALS HAS BEEN ASSIGNED CASE. RESIGNANTION OF JUDGE WHO HAD JURISDICTION RESULTED IN CASE BEING PLACED ON DOCKET OF JUDGE CARLOS LUIS ROMO MORAN WHOSE BROTHER-IN-LAW, SERGIO ITURALDE MERCHAN, IS LONG-TIME DRUG TRAFFICKER AND CHEMIST. DEWITT

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Message Attributes

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